


VERMONT SUPREME COURT

Justices					
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Strong Democrat	Indeterminate	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners					
Dissenting Minority					
Determining Majority	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lone Dissenter			✓		

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **218**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **95.9% (209)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Carroll (22)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **125**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **3**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Robinson (2)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **9**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justices Reiber and Robinson (3 each)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/Dissenting minority

No two justices dissented together consistently in 2020. Justice Eaton was an opinion partner in four cases: twice with Justice Reiber and twice with Justice Cohen. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Eaton recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score, and Justices Cohen and Reiber recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores.

Determining majority

Five cases were decided by split decision in 2020. There was no consistent determining majority in 2020.

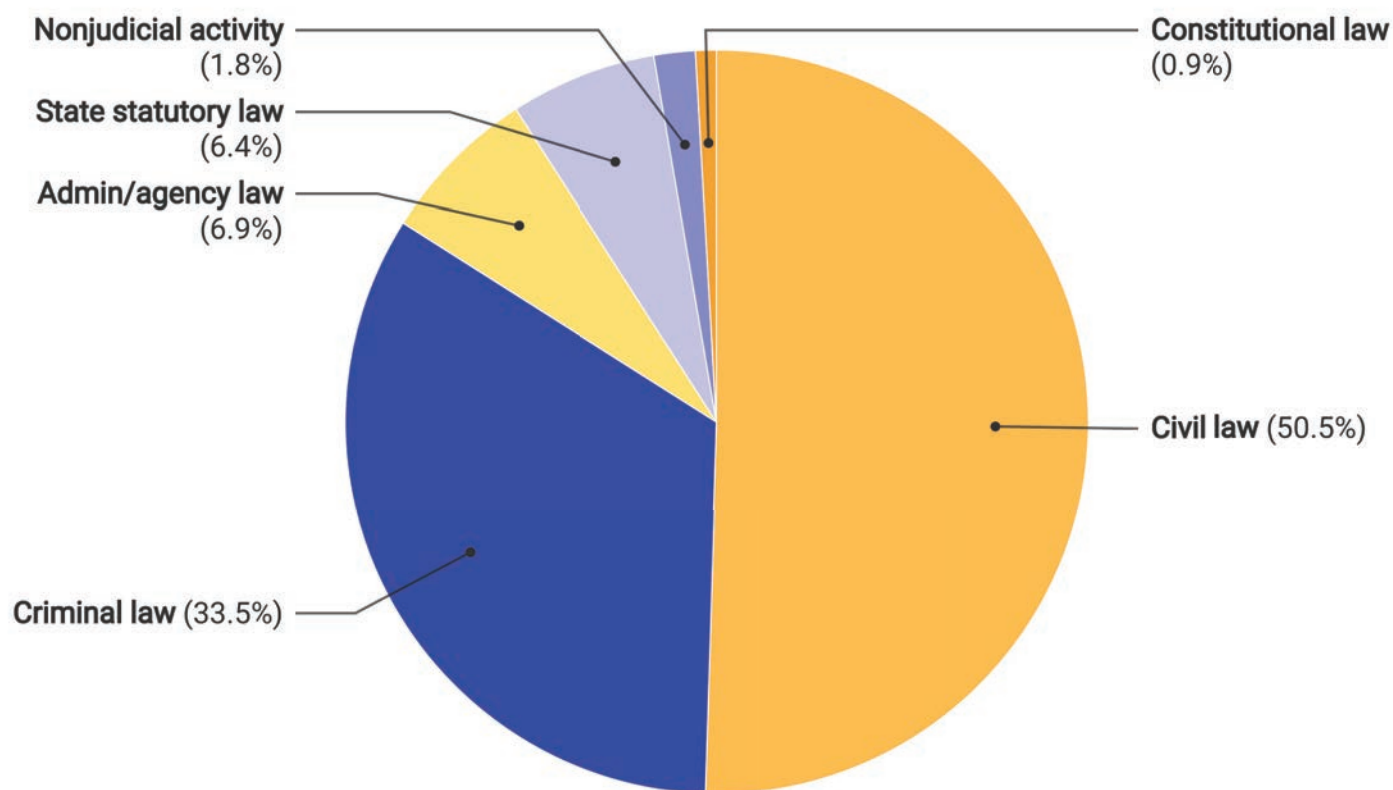
Lone dissenter

Justice Robinson dissented alone three times in 2020, and joined a dissent written by Justice Reiber in one case. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Robinson recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The court has jurisdiction over final appeals in all cases originating in the state courts and establishes the rules of civil, criminal, family, and appellate procedure. Additionally, the Vermont Supreme Court has the responsibility of administering the court system, must admit all attorneys in the state to practice law, and is the disciplinary authority for judicial officers and attorneys.

Case types decided by Vermont Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Vermont Supreme Court in 2020 were civil cases. Of the 218 cases it heard, 110 were civil law cases, or 50.5 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal

law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Vermont Supreme Court heard 73 criminal law cases in 2020, or 33.5 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were administrative law cases. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. The Vermont Supreme Court heard 15 administrative law cases in 2020, or 6.9 percent of its total caseload for the year.